



The National Sporting Library NEWSLETTER

A RESEARCH CENTER FOR HORSE AND FIELD SPORTS

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No. 56

Master of the Field: The Foxhunting Fiction of Gordon Grand

Peter Winants

Gordon Grand, the author of *The Silver Horn* and 10 other books in 1932-1948, is considered by most enthusiasts of sporting books as America's leader in foxhunting fiction. Some view him in a class with Ireland's Somerville and Ross and England's Robert Smith Surtees.

For Grand, writing was a part-time amateur thing. By vocation, he was a lawyer. He later became president of a public utility company in New York City.

Foxhunting was Grand's avocation throughout life. As a child he hunted with the Essex (N. J.) Fox Hounds, where Emma Dell was also a member of the field. In time she became Grand's wife. All-told they hunted together for 47 years.

The Grands moved in 1929 to Millbrook, N. Y., where he was a key member of the Millbrook Hunt until his death in 1950 at age 67.

Grand explained his start as a writer in an interview in the *Poughkeepsie (N. Y.) Journal* newspaper in 1940: "I was on an ocean liner coming home from Europe in the early 1930s. I had nothing to do, so I wrote a little hunting story and later sent it to Dick Danielson, the editor of *The Sportsman* magazine. It was used, so I wrote another for Danielson."

IN THIS ISSUE

Hunting Down the Good Life

J. Blan van Urk researched, wrote and rode his way into American sporting history.

Under Roof and On Schedule

The NSL's new library building begins to put its best facade forward.



ELEANORISELIN MASON ILLUSTRATION FROM THE MILLBECK HOUNDS

This illustration from Gordon Grand's book *The Millbeck Hounds* shows veteran huntsman Will Madden and his hunter Timemaster clearing a stone wall. The story centers on a discussion Madden shared with Woodsman, a favorite hound. The fictitious Millbeck Hounds was modeled on the real Millbrook (N.Y.) Hunt that Grand followed for nearly 20 years.

Grand's articles caught the eye of Eugene V. Connett, the owner of Derrydale Press, America's leading publisher of sporting books. Connett encouraged Grand to write a number of short stories for a book. *The Silver Horn* was published in 1932.

"The book sold well. Connett was enthusiastic and he set me to doing a second book, then a third, and so on," Grand stated in the *Poughkeepsie Journal*.

Most of Grand's stories took place in the Millbrook hunting country, referred to as Millbeck. Various characters appear in many of Grand's stories, principally Colonel Weatherford, an elderly country squire who is Millbeck's master of foxhounds.

Weatherford is a lovable soul who diplomatically solves problems in the countryside and serves as a role model for young sportsmen.

Peter B. Devers, a history buff and beagling and foxhunting enthusiast in Millbrook, states that Weatherford is a composite of Frederic H. Bontecou and Dr. Howard Collins, who were masters of the Millbrook Hunt in Grand's time.

The Millbeck Hounds, a Collection of Foxhunting Stories was dedicated to Bontecou, whom Grand described as "a sportsman, friend and neighbor with whom I have hunted the fox a score and more years."

The Silver Horn, Grand's best-known book, has 15 chapters on a variety of subjects in addition to hounds and hunting. It includes flat and steeplechase racing, horse showing and chicken fighting, and several chapters on young lovers who met through horses. The book was well received abroad. An edition was published in London in 1934.

A personal favorite in *The Silver Horn* is "Colonel Weatherford's Brush," which is about the first foxhunt of a 12-year-old girl. The day, according to Weatherford, featured "the greatest run in the history of our hounds." The little girl was the sole field member with hounds when the fox was accounted for.

Weatherford said: "I wish a master artist might have produced a picture of Maida Elizabeth as I saw her [during the hunt]. Her eyes were looking far ahead towards the hounds. Her exquisite chin was tilted up as though she was trying to make herself taller and to see farther. She was sitting as nonchalantly as in an armchair."

The story has a surprise, emotional ending. Read it, and you'll be moved.

Grand's second book, *Colonel Weatherford and His Friends*, includes a chapter titled "Trying," which is about Woodsman, a foxhound who was the favorite of Millbeck's veteran huntsman, Will Madden. Grand described Madden's rapport with Woodsman after a fine hunt under deplorable scenting. "The old huntsman held the hound's head in his gnarled hands and looked fixedly into its eyes. 'Fourteen miles we be trailin' that fox, pokin' him along, runnin' him, bad scent, wind all hot, hounds always trying. God, Woodsman, how you tried.'

Grand's accompanying bibliography includes four booklets that were privately printed as Christmas presents to friends, especially young foxhunters. The booklets, each with a Christmas theme, are 30 or so pages. Two in the NSL collection are bound in buckram, the others paperback. My favorite is titled *Mr. Nip and Mr. Tuck*, which is about John David, a youngster from a poor family.

John David wished for his own pony, so he could enjoy hunting with the Millbeck Hounds. But he was told that a pony was out of the question, that getting by was a matter of nip and tuck.



FROM A.H. HIGGINSON'S BRITISH AND AMERICAN SPORTING AUTHORS

This detail from a painting by Patricia H. Stratton shows Gordon Grand ready for a day in the field with the Millbrook Hunt.

A Grand Tribute

Those who have been privileged to read the fox-hunting stories of my good friend Gordon Grand have never failed to be impressed by the beauty of the stories themselves and inspired by certain uplifting qualities which permeate his writings.

It is probably regarded by most people that the hunting field is the best schoolroom for prospective followers of hounds, but personally I am of the opinion that these hunting stories are of equal importance. They plant the seed of interest, and the desire for participation in the case, promote a regard for its rules and amenities and take the novice backstage where the problems of fox and hounds, masters and huntsmen and ever gallant horses are tellingly and authoritatively presented.

My blessings on Gordon Grand for his outstanding contribution to the sport and may he continue so to hearten us for years to come.

W. PLUNKET STEWART

[W. Plunket Stewart, who in 1912 founded Mr. Stewart's Cheshire Foxhounds in Pennsylvania, wrote the above foreword to Grand's book *The Millbeck Hounds*.]

THE NATIONAL SPORTING LIBRARY

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Laura Rose, *Editor*

We welcome your visit. The Library is open to the public weekdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Appointments are encouraged.

Library Staff

PETER WINANTS, *Director*

ALEXANDER MACKAY-SMITH, *Curator*

LAURA ROSE, *Librarian*

One day when following hounds on foot, John David came across an elderly man, also on foot, who had devoted his life to horses and hounds. What ensued will not be divulged, but the little story concludes with Millbeck's meet on Christmas Day, where John David received a check for his own pony from an anonymous donor. The card read: "Just say it's from Mr. Nip and Mr. Tuck."

Sounds corny, but it's a great story. Trust me.

Grand put fiction aside in 1938 to write a biography of fellow foxhunter Redmond C. Stewart of Maryland, a legendary sportsman who died in 1936 at age 62. He was the founder and huntsman in 1892 of the Green Spring Valley (Md.) Hounds, and he rode Landslide to win the Maryland Hunt Cup in 1904. In addition to sporting accomplishments, Grand gives great insight into Stewart's character. I particularly enjoyed the chapters "An Artisan and His Block of Marble" and "Friendships."

Insight into Grand's writing technique is revealed in the interview in the *Poughkeepsie Journal*. "The quality of balance is sometimes difficult to achieve," said Grand. "When I review my completed story I may suddenly discover that the introduction is much too wordy, or that the story goes off on some tangent, that I have 4,500 words about something that deserves 2,000."

Grand added that good prose must have a "singing quality" when read aloud.

"I do not find the mechanics of writing a story all that difficult," said Grand. "The hard thing is to find a theme that has such strong appeal, is so clear cut, that the writing becomes easy."

Grand's stories are easy to read. They sing.

Peter Winants is director of the National Sporting Library.



ELEANOR ISELIN MASON ILLUSTRATION
FROM THE MILLBECK HOUNDS

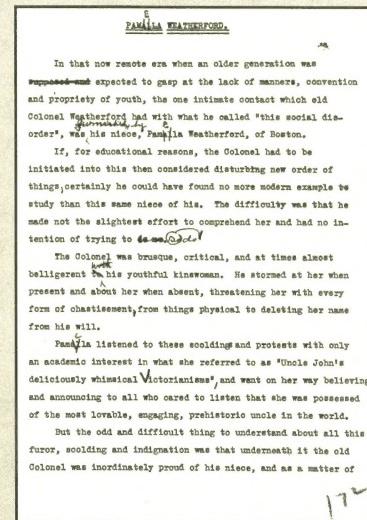
ONE AND ONLY

The National Sporting Library's collection has at least one edition of each of Gordon Grand's titles, as well as the original manuscript of *Old Man and Other Colonel Weatherford Stories*, consisting of 14 short stories. A handwritten letter from Grand bound into the manuscript reads:

"This is the original manuscript of *Old Man* as submitted by me in 1934 to my good friend Eugene V. Connett, owner of Derrydale Press. My afterthoughts and his erudite corrections are rampant through the pages. The writing and publishing of these little tales did not do much towards augmenting our income, but as a sporting adventure we had fun. Connett gave encouragement to lots of fellows who were fond of the out-of-doors and wanted to tell about it. I was one of them."

Connett's red pencil is evident throughout the manuscript in changes of sentence structure, spelling and choice of words. No effort is made to alter Grand's homespun style.

The manuscript page at right shows Grand's draft for the story "Pamella Weatherford." As the draft illustrates, he originally spelled the name of Colonel Weatherford's niece "Pamalla."



Books by Gordon Grand

- **Colonel Weatherford and His Friends*. New York: Derrydale Press, 1933. Illus. by J. A. Twachtman.
- **Colonel Weatherford's Young Entry*. New York: Derrydale Press, 1935. Illus. by Paul Brown.
- **Faith, Perfect Faith*. Millbrook, N.Y.: Privately printed, 1943.
- **A Horse for Christmas Morning*. Millbrook, N. Y.: Privately printed, 1939.
_____. New York: Winchester Press, 1970. Illus. by Wallace Nall.
- **The Millbeck Hounds, a Collection of Hunting Stories*. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1947. Illus. by Eleanor Iselin Mason.
- **Mr. Henry P. Throckmorton*. Millbrook, N.Y.: Privately printed, 1948.
- **Mr. Nip and Mr. Tuck*. Millbrook, N.Y.: Privately printed, 1945.
- **Old Man and Other Colonel Weatherford Stories*. New York: Derrydale Press, 1934. Illus. by William J. Hays.
- **Redmond C. Stewart, Foxhunter and Gentleman of Maryland*. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1938.
- **The Silver Horn and Other Sporting Tales of Colonel Weatherford*. New York: Derrydale Press, 1932. Illus. by J. Alden Twachtman.
_____. London: Country Life, 1934. Illus. by K. F. Barker.
_____. Montreal: Privately printed, 1935.
_____. New York: Windward House, 1935. Illus. by Ralph L. Boyer.
*_____. New York: Windward House, 1937. Illus. by Ralph L. Boyer.
- **The Southborough Fox and Other Colonel Weatherford Stories*. New York: Derrydale Press, 1939. Illus. by Eleanor Iselin Mason.

* Included in the NSL collection

J. Blan Van Urk's Quarry Was the Life and Lore of Foxhunting

Jackie C. Burke

J. Blan van Urk was a foxhunting authority for the ages. Van Urk, who passed away March 30 in West Chester, Pa., brought the earliest days of sport in this country alive in *The Story of American Foxhunting, Vol. I, 1650-1861*, and *Vol. II, 1865-1906*. Whenever possible, van Urk permitted a tale to tell itself through old letters and articles drawn from 19th century periodicals. Most importantly, he left the trail for others to follow by carefully documenting his works.

The two volumes of *The Story of American Foxhunting* were published in the grand style of Derrydale Press in 1940 and 1941, and more's the pity that two additional volumes, which would have covered 100 hunts organized between 1910 and 1940, fell victim to wartime paper shortages. No less than A. Henry Higginson described these works as "standard references for many years to come" in his own *British and American Sporting Authors*. The few typewritten manuscripts intended for those later volumes now reside in the Museum of Hounds and Hunting at Morven Park, Leesburg, Va.

Other important titles by van Urk, who was 95 when he died, include *The Horse, the Valley and the Chagrin Valley Hunt* and *The Story of Rolling Rock*. He also penned the *Encyclopedia Britannica's* entry on foxhunting. Van Urk considered himself lucky to have authored the latter because

he almost tossed the invitation to do so. He took one look at the envelope, judged that it was an advertising circular, and nearly threw it away.

The Middleburg Chronicle, which was first published in 1937 and later became *The Chronicle of the Horse* magazine, carried many pieces by van Urk over the years. The Museum of Hounds and Hunting houses correspondence about the sporting periodical between van Urk and its first editor, Stacy Lloyd. A lifelong researcher, van Urk's final project was a study of the sporting author Robert Smith Surtees; he lectured extensively on Surtees during the 1980s.

At Home in the Saddle or Speakeasy

Van Urk was born in 1902 in Urk, The Netherlands, the son of a prominent surgeon who moved his family to Kalamazoo, Mich., in 1908 and later settled in New York. Van Urk attended Culver Military Academy, where he participated in all sports, was a leading light of the Glee Club, and rode in the Black Horse Troop. He earned a degree from Princeton, where he won the heavyweight boxing championship and developed an interest in sporting events and New York speakeasies.

After graduation in 1924, van Urk rode as a guest-student at various European cavalry schools and chased tigers in India, jackals in Africa, hares in Australia, and foxes in Great Britain. Employed as a publicist for the Miami Beach Chamber of Commerce and Board of Realtors in the 1920s, van Urk quipped that he made, then lost, a fortune there by putting undue faith in his own press releases. This precipitated a move to New York in 1930 to work in the fields of public relations and advertising. Major projects included two World Fairs and the New Deal's homestead and slum clearance programs.

Van Urk held court daily at the restaurant "21," where at table 9 he hosted such luminaries as Humphrey Bogart, Howard Cosell and Sonny Werblin. With these and other celebrity friends he founded Skeeters, a club devoted to wrangling free admission to sporting events. For years, the decorative jockey at "21" wore van Urk's maroon and grey racing colors, and the restaurant listed on its menu a dessert concocted by van Urk, who was a gourmet cook.

Hashing and Rehashing: Van Urk on Telling "THE STORY" of Foxhunting

"When Napoleon said, "History is simply a story often told," he surely didn't have the *expositio* of American foxhunting in mind; for while numerous items have been touched upon and certain phases hashed and rehashed, there is not today a comprehensive or even chronological study available—besides which, many loose ends have been dangling for want of substantiation or correction, and much that should have come to light has remained undisclosed. Therefore, while these four volumes in no way stand as an American history of hunting in its completest form—such a work would take many, years of research and necessitate the space of at least eight or ten huge volumes—they do nevertheless pretend to account for a great deal of record and import, and they do tell THE STORY. It is my fervent hope that what rests within their covers is a thorough and complete in scope as any work of similar size could accommodate. . . ."

—J. Blan van Urk in the "Author's Remarks" preceding *The Story of American Foxhunting*, Volume I (1940). Two of the four proposed volumes were completed.

The Story of American Foxhunting

From Challenge to Full Cry

J. BLAN VAN URK

INTRODUCTION BY
GORDON GRAND

VOLUME I

1650-1861



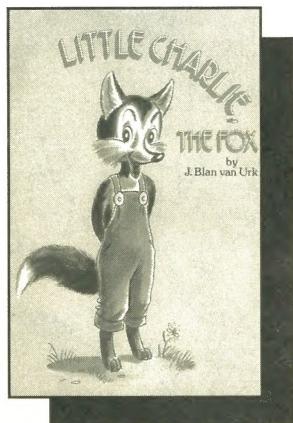
NEW YORK :: THE DERRYDALE PRESS

Town and Country magazine, which then served as the official organ of the Masters of Foxhounds Association, hired van Urk for the enviable position of hunting correspondent, for which he received a travel stipend and pay for foxhunting. For pleasure and profit, van Urk hunted with 141 different packs at home and abroad.

When on fact-finding missions for his "Good Hunting" column, written under the nom de plume "Derek," van Urk spared himself no luxury.

Higginson wrote that van Urk "was often the guest of the Masters, who placed excellent hunters at his disposal and helped him in many ways." A man of discriminating taste—named one of *Esquire* magazine's best dressed men—he camped out for weeks on end at such luxurious digs as Carter Hall in the Blue Ridge, Va., hunt country.

He demanded the best and in return lavished praise on hostesses, hospitality extended during his stays, and the horses he hunted. Such glowing coverage in the nation's leading society magazine no doubt stroked a few egos and sold some horses, for his mounts always "jumped brilliantly, deported themselves magnificently, and made it to the end of the most taxing runs."



Even van Urk's 1977 children's book, Little Charlie, the Fox, shows his scholarly side. Aside from Charlie's story, readers also find a glossary of hunting terms, a small collection of hunting trivia, and an excerpt from the Encyclopaedia Britannica praising the intelligence of the red fox.

While on these hunting visits, van Urk shook rare source materials from the libraries in the homes where he stayed. During idle days, he unearthed long-forgotten correspondences, hunting books and periodicals.

The House Charm Built

In 1944 van Urk married Virginia Nellis, a fashion editor for *Harper's Bazaar* and *Town and Country*. The couple moved to Wilmington, Del., in 1959, and not long after bought property in West Grove, Pa. Nancy Hannum, master of Mr. Stewart's Cheshire Hounds and guardian of the countryside, remembered offering van Urk helpful suggestions as to the siting of his house and development of his land. He was perfectly charming in dismissing her ideas, Hannum

said, adding graciously that the home he built and lived in until shortly before his death turned out just fine.

Van Urk enthusiastically followed Cheshire until a freak fall while hacking to a meet ended his hunting career at age 88. Longtime Cheshire hunter Bruce Miller said even to the end van Urk hunted first flight in the very best style and beautifully mounted.

Besides hunters, van Urk also kept a small but effective race stable he called Sugar Tree Farm. His horses included Flying Cottage, trained by W. Burling Cocks and ridden by Joe Aitcheson, which won the 1962 timber championship during a year of such equine standouts as Jay Trump and Mountain Dew.

During his Pennsylvania days, van Urk took lunch at Hotel du Pont and conducted business in Wilmington, Del. There, he and Frederick Pollard set up Serendipity Press, which published van Urk's delightful children's tale, *Little Charlie, the Fox*; Nancy Sweet-Escott's *The Clergyman's Daughter*; the story of the Philadelphia Phillies during Pete Rose days; and works of regional interest such as a history of the du Pont Company.

Other professional accomplishments included presidency of National Association of Scholars and Publishers and National Publishers Services, of which he also served as chairman.

Van Urk's death was reported in a three-column obituary in the *New York Times* in which he was described "a widely recognized authority on foxhunting and lunch" who would be remembered as a "high spirited sportsman and sometimes public relations man who spent the better part of the century riding happily to hounds."



COURTESY OF THE MUSEUM OF HOUNDS AND HUNTING

This 1975 photo shows J. Blan van Urk out with the Cheshire Fox Hounds, aboard "Gay Duplicate," a point-to-point mare turned hunter.

Jackie C. Burke is the author of Capital Horse Country, A Rider and Spectator's Guide and Equal to the Challenge: Pioneering Women in Horse Sports. She is coauthor of Nike Is a Goddess, The Story of Women's Sports, which will be published this fall.

EXHIBITION SPOTLIGHT

The following is a list of exhibitions that NSL members may find of interest. A contact number is included; we encourage you to check schedules and hours before attending.

ARIZONA

Phoenix. The Heard Museum. "HORSE." Through March 1999. (602) 252-8840. This exhibit examines the influences the horse has had on indigenous cultures in North America, and also explores the deep meanings that horses hold for Native Americans. Indian horse gear, baskets, vests, cradle board covers and children's horses will be included. The exhibit also looks at contemporary images of horses in Native American Art and the continuing role of horses in Native American life.

KENTUCKY

Lexington. American Saddle Horse Museum. "Advancing Toward the Past: The Expanding Museum Collection." Through December 1998. (606) 259-2746. This exhibition represents a sampling of the approximately 500 artifacts accepted by the museum from 1996 through early 1998, including artwork, trophies, memorabilia and more.

Lexington. International Museum of the Horse. "Presidents and Their Horses." Through Sept. 7, 1998. (606) 259-4231. Text, art, photos and artifacts will tell the stories of our nation's leaders and their

equestrian involvement. The exhibit begins in Colonial America and continues to the 20th century through the wild west and military exploits of Teddy Roosevelt to Ronald Reagan's film career and love of horses.

Also, "Fall Showcase of Equine Art." Sept. 12-Oct. 26, 1998. The American Academy of Equine Art's annual juried exhibition includes works by Academy members and others.

Louisville. Kentucky Derby Museum. "Secretariat: Image of a Champion." Through Oct. 4, 1998. (502)

637-1111. A special exhibit of illustrations, photos and paintings celebrates the 25th anniversary of Secretariat's Kentucky Derby and Triple Crown 1973 victories.

Also, "Lloyd Kelly and International Racing," will be on display from Oct. 18, 1998-Jan. 10, 1999. The exhibit features paintings, sketches and sculptures by Lloyd Kelly depicting scenes from major and minor tracks throughout the world.

MONTANA

Great Falls. C.M. Russell Museum. "Miniature Art Exhibition." Through Sept. 12, 1998.



COURTESY THE HEARD MUSEUM

This Sioux vest is part of the "HORSE" exhibit, which will remain up at the Heard Museum in Phoenix through March 1999. The vest, which is made of beaded leather and cloth, dates from the early 1900s.

(406) 727-8787. Approximately 218 works by 132 artists will be displayed until Sept. 12 and then auctioned to benefit the museum. Artists include Joe Abbrescia, Robert Ball, Edward Borein, Sherry Gallagher, Jack Hines, Donna Howell-Sickles, Ned Mueller, Neil Patterson, Carl Rungius, C.M. Russell, Lowell Ellsworth Smith and others.

NEW MEXICO

Ruidoso Downs. Museum of the Horse. "The Cowboy Boot: Soul of the American West." Through Oct. 18, 1998. (505) 378-4142. Boots from Bill Clinton, Boris Yeltsin and Elizabeth Taylor join more than 300 pairs of cowboy boots on display in this comprehensive exhibition, which chronicles the history, evolution and diversity of the cowboy boot. The show includes information on the making of boots, and related books, movies, music and more.

NEW YORK

Ogdensburg. The Frederic Remington Museum. "Eleanor Iselin Wade: Artist and Horsewoman." July 18-Sept. 29, 1998. (315) 393-2425. This exhibition, which was organized by the National Museum of Racing, features equestrian bronzes created over a lifetime by artist and rancher Eleanor Iselin Wade, from "Scipio" (1927) to "Lonesome



COURTESY MUSEUM OF THE HORSE

If you like cowboy boots, check out over 300 pairs on display at the Museum of the Horse in Ruidoso Downs, N.M., through Oct. 18.

Glory" (1997). The next venue for the show will be the Hockaday Center for the Arts in Kalispell, Mont., from Oct. 10-Nov. 30, 1998.

Saratoga Springs. National Museum of Racing. "From Man o' War to Lonesome Glory: The Jeffords Collection." Through Sept. 7, 1998. (518) 584-0400. A selection of 42 paintings and seven bronzes from the sporting art collection of Mrs. Water M. Jeffords Jr. represent 250 years of racing history and 75 years of collecting by the Jeffords family. Edward Troye, Henri de Lattre, Henry Stull, Vaughn Flannery and Sir Alfred Munnings are among the artists represented.

TEXAS

Amarillo. American Quarter Horse Heritage Center & Museum. "The Little Wrangler." Through Sept. 7, 1998. (806) 376-4888. This exhibit is designed to give visitors a taste of life on a 19th-century cattle drive. Modern "little wranglers" can visit an animated talking horse, try on kid-size vests, chaps and boots, and watch classic Western movie clips from the seat of a saddle.

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GIFT HORSES

Therapeutic Riding Association of Virginia Presents NSL with \$500 Grant for Book Purchases

The Therapeutic Riding Association of Virginia (TRAV) gave the NSL a big leg up this spring when it presented the Library with a \$500 check to be used to purchase books of interest to TRAV members, who teach for, volunteer with and operate therapeutic riding programs in Virginia.

TRAV's Cheryl Coughlin worked with NSL Librarian Laura Rose, who volunteers with the Loudoun Therapeutic Riding Foundation in Leesburg, Va., to assemble a list of books to be purchased with the funds. Some are specific to therapeutic riding, such as *Developmental Riding Therapy* by Jan Spink and *Aspects and Answers* by Fran Joswick et al. Others are of general interest, including *A Young Person's Guide to Dressage* by Jane Kidd; *Training Your Horse with Lunge and Long Reins* by Christopher and Victoria Coldrey; *Sew Your Own Riding Clothes* by Linnea Sheppard; and *Saddle Fitting* by William G. Langdon Jr.

We are honored to have received this grant and look forward to sharing these new acquisitions with TRAV members and other NSL visitors, either in the library or via interlibrary loan. Thanks, TRAV!

Twining and Steinkraus Bestow Special Gifts

Edmund S. Twining III donated a notable collection of sporting books dating from the 17th century. Some big highlights of the collection are copies of Richard Blome's *The Gentleman's Recreation* (1686), Robert Howlett's *The Royal Pastime of Cock-Fighting* (1709); and two scrapbooks from the collection of F. Ambrose Clark. One is of the 1933 Grand National Steeplechase, which was won by Mrs. Clark's Kellsboro' Jack; the other is of the 1921 International Polo Match held in Hurlingham, England.

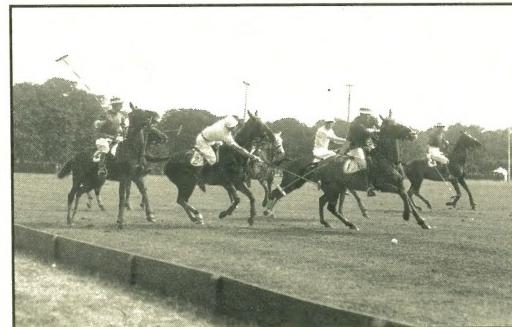
In addition, William Steinkraus, a member of the NSL's board of directors, presented the library with a copy of *Method of Breaking Horses and Teaching Soldiers to Ride* (1862) by Henry, the Earl of Pembroke. This book will be a fine addition to our cavalry section.

Other donors include Nolah Fulk, Laura M.C. Balding, Artisan, J.A. Allen and Co., Mr. and Mrs. John L. McShane, Hilda Nelson, Fred Warshaw, New Horizons Equine Education Center, Deborah Eve Rubin, Roberts Rinehart Publishers, Michael F. Robinson, Storey Communications, John R. Swift, Allen Toews and Laura Rose.

Thank you, donors!



PETER WINANTS PHOTO



NSL COLLECTION

American team member Tommy Hitchcock (left) blocks British team member Major F.W. Barrett during the 1921 International Polo Match. Edmund S. Twining III recently donated a scrapbook of the match, which was won by the American team.

BOOK REVIEWS

An Honest Angler: The Best of Sparse Grey Hackle

EDITED BY PATRICIA MILLER SHERWOOD

The Lyons Press, 31 W. 21st St., New York, NY 10010. 260 pp. Illus. \$30.00.

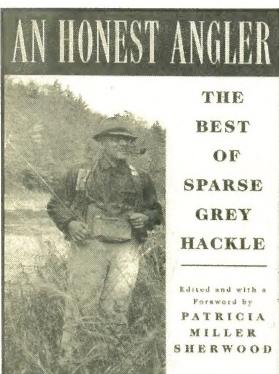
Alfred W. Miller, who died in 1983 at age 90, was a talented journalist who had an avid interest in fishing. His articles, written under the pen name Sparse Grey Hackle, appeared in *Sports Illustrated*, *The New York Times* and *The New York Herald Tribune*. His book, *Fishless Days, Angling Nights*, is a classic in the field.

Miller's daughter, freelance writer Patricia Miller Sherwood, has assembled in *An Honest Angler* the best of her father's work. In addition to newspaper and magazine articles and excerpts from his book, Sherwood includes a number of letters to friends. Some of the 79 pieces are extremely informative, others amusing. All are well written.

One letter explains Miller's use of a pen name. When his favorite trout stream in the Catskill (N.Y.) Mountains was threatened by pollution, Miller embarked upon a letter writing campaign to local newspapers. "I didn't waste time about pollution killing fish. I kept sending out releases to small towns in the area, talking about typhoid fever. That's a very dirty word in resort country and I figured I might turn up floating in the river with

my head caved in if they found out who was doing it. Hence the pen name."

The pen name refers to the grey hackle, a dry fly used by trout fishermen. The adjective sparse describes a lightly-made grey hackle used in the relatively smooth wa-



ters in the Catskills.

Miller's love of fishing is expressed in the chapter "A Fishless Day in the Rainbow Run."

"The air was crisp but dry and my heavy clothing kept me comfortable as I stood in the shallow water, smoking the pipe that al-

ways seems to taste best at such times, and subtly, unhurriedly working my streamer over every inch of the little pool. I had the whole night ahead of me and I proposed to enjoy it."

The chapter "The Perfect Angler" gives a fine overview of the sport. Miller wrote: "If we accept the little girl's statement that piano playing is easy—'You just press down on those little black and white things'—and apply it to fishing, all it involves is: 1. Finding a fish; 2. Deceiving it into taking an imitation of its food; 3. Hooking, playing and landing it."

As a horseman, I can relate to numbers 1 and 3. Like finding the fish, finding the right horse is the challenge. Like landing the fish, making and training the horse requires patience and skill.

As a library director, I enjoyed Sparse Grey Hackle's comments on books. "You don't learn fishing from a book—you learn it from a fish. But books help you in interpreting what the fish is trying to tell you."

Miller advised aspiring anglers to read every fishing book they can get hold of. "No matter how trivial, worthless or even wrong a book may be, you can almost always find in it some one thing that you won't find in any other. Usually that marks the point where the author stopped repeating what other writers before him had said, and dipped into his own experience to record something he had observed himself."

Miller stated in another letter that a high school teacher taught him to respect and enjoy the English language. He added that this resulted in his having "some comprehension and appreciation of the weight, connotation, origin and meaning of words, and some enjoyment of their beauty."

Miller's words work overtime in *An Honest Angler*.

P. W.

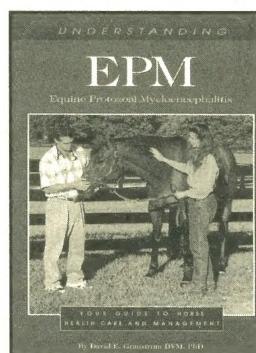
Understanding EPM

BY DAVID E. GRANSTROM, DVM, PhD.

The Blood-Horse, Inc., Box 4038, Lexington, KY 40544-4038. 1997. 103 pp. Illus. Index. Glossary. Directory of web sites. \$14.95.

EPM (equine protozoal myeloencephalitis) is a neurological disease afflicting equines that has risen from obscurity in re-

cent years. By now, most horse people have heard of EPM. They may even have an acquaintance whose horse has been diagnosed with it, but probably few have a clue as to what is presently known about it. Horse health care books have little or no information. The most alarming aspect of the disease is that not enough is known to veterinarians in the diagnosis and treatment.



Author David Granstrom has been actively involved in researching the cause and treatment of the disease. He covers the subject in great depth with a dose of technical terms, but the book is still quite readable to the lay-reader. The chapters include what is presently known about the protozoal disease including its diagnosis, treatment, transmission and risk factors.

The artwork gives good visual references that enhance the text. Excellent photos illustrate horses with uncoordinated movements typical of the disease. They are as good as you can get without watching a video.

One line drawing depicts the transmission cycle of the protozoa involving birds and opossums, and another shows the geographic territory of incidents reported, which includes most of North and South America. Placed early in the book, these two bits of information will snare readers, as they can easily see how easy it is for their own horses to be susceptible.

Granstrom does not shy from minimizing the effort required to properly diagnose EPM, nor does he hide the facts concerning the cost and duration of treatment, which can last up to a year. "Medication and supplements alone can cost \$250 to \$1000 a month, depending on the treatment regimen prescribed," he wrote.

In each chapter, boxed sidebars in bold print bring pertinent information right to the point. In chapter 4, concerning the treatment, he notes, "Most horses respond to the standard therapy, but less than one-quarter make a full recovery."

In the last chapter, he addresses prevention of EPM. It's not surprising that good health care can prevent its onset. "A healthy, fit horse is the best protection you can have for the prevention of many equine diseases, and EPM is no exception," he wrote. The

chapter details the daily care and training aspects of prevention, plus measures the horse owner can take around the farm.

Granstrom does a great job explaining this mysterious disease and providing perhaps the most concise information available to date for the public. Readers will come away with a clear set of facts and will have answered all questions that present veterinary science can address.

L.C.

Horse People: Writers and Artists on the Horses They Love

EDITED BY MICHAEL ROSEN

Artisan, 708 Broadway, New York, NY 10003. 1998. 160 pp. Illus. \$30.00.

Some friends and I enjoy playing the game of the "mythical dinner party," in which we fantasize about combinations of artists, writers and other interesting folks that we think would result in a memorable gathering. For this book, editor Michael Rosen created just such a guest list of creative individuals, but instead of inviting them to dinner, he invited them to contribute literary and artistic works to a book whose profits would benefit The Company of Animals Fund, which supports animals in rescue agencies across the country.

The contributors to *Horse People* are bound by the common thread of the horse. Many are certifiably horse crazy, such as Candyce Barnes, who writes: "If I had not gone to college, I would doubtless have

gone through the reverse of the tadpole's evolutionary progress and lost my legs. I no longer needed them..."

The writings of Diane Ackerman, Jane Smiley, Henry Taylor, Maxine Kumin, Rita Mae Brown, Jo-Ann Mapson and others are joined with portfolios by artists and photographers such as Deborah Butterfield, Jamie Wyeth, Michael Plank and Robb Kendrick. The result is a beautiful, insightful and at times heart-wrenching collection where all horses—English, Western, city, country, old, young, real, imaginary—are worthy of thoughtful attention.

One of my favorite essays is by Gretel Ehrlich, who writes about her sheepherder horse, Blue, who was "long-headed, donkey-eared, hairy-legged and had spots." After Blue breaks a leg, Ehrlich writes:

"There was nothing to be done. We gave Blue a sky burial on the little knob at the southern edge of the ranch, just beyond the lake. He was facing east, toward the rising sun. For weeks I could smell his decomposing flesh. I wanted it that way. I wanted his death to sift into me just as his cranky, faithful, devilish life had seeped into my bones. After that, I bought better-looking, fancy-bred horses. But it's Blue

who I miss, who I long for. No one else would have put up with him. The same has been said of me. That was our secret and the core of our annual spring pact: that if I tolerated him, he'd do the same for me."



Looking for stories of Olympic mounts or Triple Crown winners? Look elsewhere. Looking for stories of real horses who have impacted the lives of real people? Look here, but expect to be reminded of horses you yourself have known.

If your life has been touched by horses, you'll be touched by this book. And that alone qualifies you in my book for the guest list of all future mythical dinner parties.

L.R.

Alexis-Francois L'Hotte and the Quest for Lightness in Equitation

BY HILDA NELSON

J. A. Allen and Co., 1 Lower Grosvenor Place, London SW1W OEL England. 1997. 222 pp. Illus. Index. Bibliography. \$47.95.

You don't need to be performing dressage movements like piaffe and courbette to tap into the life and work of Alexis-Francois L'Hotte, the subject of this biography. L'Hotte (1824-1904), a superb horseman who eventually became commandant of the French Cavalry School, trained with two of the leading lights of French equitation history: Francois Baucher and the Comte d'Aure. His synthesis of their opposing methods made his own riding theories all the richer—if not all the more controversial.

In the first part of this book, author Hilda Nelson presents a biography of L'Hotte, much taken from the memoirs he wrote later in his life. The second part is a translation by Nelson of L'Hotte's book *Questions Equestres*.

L'Hotte's hometown of Luneville, France, was a center for cavalry training. As he wrote in his *Souvenirs*, "If an area in which one is born and raised can decide one's vocation, it is clear that I was destined to follow a military career and serve in the cavalry." After studying at the Ecole de Cavalerie at Saumur, he began to climb the military ladder, from cavalryman to instructor on up. From early on, one of his causes was the support of the rising trot, which, he argued,



FROM HORSE PEOPLE: WRITERS AND ARTISTS ON THE HORSES THEY LOVE

"Celeste in Her Bedroom" is a photograph by Janet Biggs, a self-confessed "horsey girl" who has exhibited video installations on the theme of girls and horses.

resulted in more extension on the part of the horse and less of the noisy racket of swords against spurs that a cavalryman's sitting trot produced.

During an assignment in Lyon in 1849, L'Hotte first encountered Francois Baucher, the noted proponent of the classical, or "manege," school of training. Throughout his career he continued to implement Baucher's "nouvelle methode" when training his own horses. However, when L'Hotte did later teach at Saumur, his teaching was based on the Comte D'Aure's military or "exterior" equitation, the school's accepted method which included cross-country riding. Nelson shares L'Hotte's relationships with his esteemed teachers, who disagreed on riding theory but did agree that L'Hotte had the ability to truly *listen* to their instruction.

L'Hotte's own approach called for the horse to be "calm, forward and straight." Nelson writes that according to L'Hotte "...whatever the method used, none is infallible. One ingredient that each and every method needs in order to succeed is 'equestrian tact,' that is, 'perfect timing and good measure.' Or, as L'Hotte also says, 'The value of the means depends upon the worth of the man.'"

In one of my favorite sections of *Questions Equestres*, L'Hotte explores why great riding masters don't always produce great pupils. He compares the equestrian art to the "other arts" which lack some of its requirements. For example, a musician doesn't need the physical abilities a great rider must have. The sculptor's raw material has much more consistency than the rider's horse, which may be spirited one day and slow the next. And, unlike a painter who can teach another painter by demonstrating a brush stroke on canvas, a riding master's instruction can only point to fleeting moments—good or bad—in the saddle.

L'Hotte encourages his readers to let nature be their guide when they are training horses: "[Nature's] book is the most accurate, the wisest, the most useful to consult. From the effects found in its pages, we are led to the causes that engender them. Better than the most seductive theories, the most beautiful dissertations, the book of nature enlightens us and guides us in our practice."

This book does the same.

L.R.

Retraining: Teaching New Skills to Previously Trained Horses

BY SHARON B. SMITH

Howell Book House, 1633 Broadway, New York, NY 10019. 1998. 266 pp. Illus. Index. \$19.95.

Sharon Smith seems to have a knack for knowing what folks want to know. Her previous books, *The Affordable Horse: A Guide To Low-Cost Ownership*, and *The Performance Mare: Maximizing What Your Mare Does Best*, covered solid, useful and helpful topics, and *Retraining* is no exception. Smith answered the questions I would ask if I were retraining, and showed me what to look for in potential horses when I go horse shopping. From now on, I won't turn down an otherwise interesting prospect without taking a look just because the advertisement says "trained Western."

Smith totally hooked me with a comment in chapter three: If you ask several trainers from several different disciplines what they want in a good performance horse, you'll hear similar answers. But when you ask them to point to a horse showing those similar characteristics, you'll find yourself looking at several different animals. This woman has horse sense—something I expect in an author. Anyone can research

and report on a horse topic, but it takes a true horseman to bring out the nitty-gritty hidden truths.

Smith explained the mistake people make of putting too much emphasis on evaluating a horse at liberty. While he's in the field he's giving you a hint at his potential, but he's making no promises. You need to see him with weight on his back. Smith explains, in each section, what to look for in a horse's potential conformation for a specific changeover, and backs it up with photos that show what she's talking about.

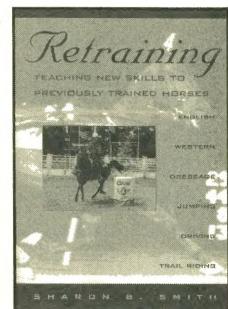
We don't have to surmise about what to do either. Smith spells it out. We learn how to go from Western to English, from English to Western, from riding to driving and so on. And she's fun, too: "For people concerned with agility rather than injury, it is easier to keep doing well in driving than in riding in spite of advancing age. In the past few years, there have been open national driving champions eligible to collect Social Security checks. The same is not true of riding competitions."

Within each section Smith discusses what the horse is used to in his current training and how he will react to the changes in retraining. She explains tips and tricks for making the change easier, such as: "Some trainers find it worthwhile to alternate saddles—English one day, Western the next—as the horse is trained to his new rein and neck aids. This allows the back and shoulder muscles to develop slowly without delaying the training process." We learn how the horse will react to the changes and what the rider needs to do to make the adjustment more smooth. Beginner or advanced riders alike should find this book and its advice useful.

Unfortunately, I found a few errors in a photo caption, although I am inclined to blame the editor for misplaced commas that changed the meaning (it's correct in the text). And I strongly disagree that turning a horse out is any kind of conditioning at all, although it's far better than stall rest, and certainly a start. But these are minor points.

Overall, I highly recommend Smith's book. It's a good read, it's hands-on knowledge and it's accurate. Plus, at \$19.95, it's a good price.

C.R.F.



TEN early TITLES IN THE NSL COLLECTION

1. Azzaroli, Augusto. *Early History of Horsemanship*. Leiden: E.J. Brill, 1985.
2. Forbes, Allan. *Early Myopia*. N.p.: n.p., 1942.
3. Gilbey, Walter. *Early Carriages and Roads*. London: Vinton, 1903.
4. Harrison, Fairfax. *Early American Turf-Stock, 1730-1830*. Richmond, Va.: The Old Dominion Press, 1934.
5. Henderson, Robert W. *Early American Sport*. Rutherford, N.J.: Fairleigh Dickinson, 1977.
6. Lathrop, Elise. *Historic Houses of Early America*. New York: Tudor, 1937.
7. Prior, C.M. *Early Records of the Thoroughbred Horse*. London: Sportsman Office, 1924.
8. Sloane, Eric. *A Museum of Early American Tools*. New York: Ballantine, 1973.
9. Smith, Frederick. *Early History of Veterinary Literature*. London: J.A. Allen, 1976.
10. Spruytte, J. *Early Harness Systems*. London: J.A. Allen, 1983.

NEW ARRIVALS

The following books are just a sample of titles recently added to the NSL shelves. We invite you to visit the Library to see these new arrivals. The  symbol notes recently published works.

 Amman, Max E., ed.

L'Annee Hippique 1997/1998

A. E. Best, Holland: BCM-Holland, 1997.

Andrews, William Loring

An English XIX Century Sportsman..

New York: Dodd, Mead & Co., 1906.

 Blazer, Don

Nine Secrets of Perfect Horsemanship

Cave Creek, Ariz.: Success Is Easy, 1998.

Blome, Richard

Gentlemans Recreation, in Two Parts..

London: Printed by S. Roycroft for Richard Blome, 1686.

Brown, John J.

American Angler's Guide

New York: D. Appleton and Company, 1857.

Cade, Tom J. et al

Peregrine Falcon Populations

Boise, Idaho: The Peregrine Fund, 1988.

 Cave, Maxine

The BHSI Course Companion

London: J.A. Allen, 1998.

Clayton, Michael

The Golden Thread: Foxhunting Today

London: Methuen, 1984.

 Clower, Michael

Mick Kinane: Big Race King

Edinburgh: Mainstream, 1997.

Coldrey, Christopher and Victoria

Training Your Horse with Lunge and

Long Reins

Wiltshire, England: Crowood Press, 1996.

 Colgan, Charles T. et al

American Steeplechasing 1997

Elkton, Md.: National Steeplechase Assn., 1998.

Edom, Helen

Starting Riding

London: Usborne, 1992.

Fitz-Barnard, Capt. L.

Fighting Sports

London: Odhams Press, n.d.

Foreign Field Sports, Fisheries, Sporting..

London: Edward Orme, 1814.

Francis, Dick

Reflex

New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1981.

Francis, Dick

Break In

New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1986.

Frederick II of Hohenstaufen

Art of Falconry

Stanford, Calif.: Stanford University Press, 1969.

Giblin, James Cross

The Truth About Unicorns

New York: HarperCollins, 1991.

 Gray, Peter

Diseases of the Digestive System

London: J.A. Allen, 1998.



Heipertz, Wolfgang

Therapeutic Riding

Ottawa: Greenbelt Riding Assn. For the Disabled, 1989.

 Hill, Cherry

Beginning English Exercises [also

Intermediate and Advanced]

Pownal, Vt.: Storey, 1998.

 Hill, Cherry

Beginning Western Exercises [also

Intermediate and Advanced]

Pownal, Vt.: Storey, 1998.

Horsemanship for the Pony Club

London: British Horse Society, 1956.

Howlett, Robert

The Royal Pastime of Cock-Fighting..

London: D. Brown, 1709.

International Sport Racing

London: Universal Bridge of Trade, n.d.

 Jacobsen, Sandy

Dressage Basics Outlined Step by Step

Bend, Oregon: Langfield Press, 1997.

Jefford, R.J.

The Game Keeper at Home

Boston: Robert Brothers, 1880.

Joswick, Fran et al

Aspects and Answers

Augusta, Mich.: Cheff Center, 1986.

 Kidd, Jane

A Young Person's Guide to Dressage

London: Compass Equestrian, 1997.

 Langdon, William G. Jr.

Saddle Fitting

Colbert, Wash.: Langdon Enterprises, 1997.

Leff, Marty

Guide to Therapeutic Groundwork

Washington: National Center for Therapeutic Riding, 1988.

Llywelyn, Morgan

Star Dancer

Dublin: The O'Brien Press, 1995.

 Loving, Nancy S.

Go the Distance

North Pomfret, Vt.: Trafalgar Square, 1997.

 Luedke, Ted W.

Morab Moments

Jackson, Wis.: International Morab Breeders Assn., 1998.

 McCarthy, Gillian

Practical Horse and Pony Nutrition

London: J.A. Allen, 1998.

Medwin, Thomas

The Angler in Wales

London: Richard Bentley, 1834.

Moorhead, Carol Ann

Wild Horses: Stories and Activities

Niwot, Colo.: Roberts Rinehart, 1994.

Olsen, Sandra L., ed.

Horses Through Time

Boulder, Colo.: Roberts Rinehart, n.d.

Pembroke, Henry, Earl of

Method of Breaking Horses and Teaching..

London: J. Hughs, 1862.

 Perry, Jean

Make Your Own Riding Clothes

London: J.A. Allen, 1998.

 **Proceedings of the Ninth International Therapeutic Riding Congress**

Denver, Colo.: NARHA, 1997.

 Ramey, David W.

Concise Guide to Nutrition in the Horse

New York: Howell, 1998.

 Ramey, David W.

Concise Guide to Arthritis in the Horse

New York: Howell, 1998.

 Reynolds, Sue

The Complete Guide to Horse Careers

Livermore, Colo.: New Horizons Equine Education Center, 1998.

Schlegel, H.

Traite de Faunonnerie

Denver, Colo.: Chasse Publications, 1973.

Scott, Genio

Fishing in American Waters

New York: Harper & Brothers, 1869.

Sewell, Anna

Black Beauty, His Grooms and Companions

Boston: American Humane Education Society, 1890.

Sheppard, Linnea A.

Sew Your Own Riding Clothes

Ossining, N.Y.: Breakthrough, 1994.

Smith, Brian

The Horse in Ireland

Dublin: Wolfhound Press, 1991.

Sparrow, Walter Shaw

Angling in British Art

London: John Lane, 1923.

Spink, Jan

Developmental Riding Therapy

Tucson: Therapy Skill Builders, 1993.

Sportsman's Dictionary..

London: Fielding and Walker, 1778.

Stout, Nancy

Great American Thoroughbred Racetracks

New York: Rizzoli, 1991.

Webber, Toni

Safety

Addington, England: Kenilworth Press, 1993.

Welcome, John

The Sporting Empress

London: Michael Joseph, 1975.

 **Working Drawings of Horse-Drawn Vehicles**

Bird-In-Hand, Pa.: Carriage Museum of America, 1998.

Other Media

Every Time... Every Ride... (video)

Puyallup, Wash.: Washington State 4-H Foundation.

 **Shiatsu Exercises for Horse & Rider (audiotape)**

Pamela Hannay. London: J.A. Allen & Co.

NSL NEWS

NSL to Co-Host October Lecture Featuring Historic English Stables

On Oct. 30 the National Sporting Library, The Friends of British Sporting Art and Foxcroft School will present a lecture by Lorella Brocklesby at Foxcroft School in Middleburg. Brocklesby, an adjunct professor at New York University, will discuss "Historic English Country House Stables." The lecture is tentatively set for 7 p.m., with a reception to follow.

The lecture, which is partially supported by a grant from the Loudoun Library Foundation, is free and open to the public, but seating is limited and reservations will be required. Details will be confirmed in an invitation sent to NSL members this fall; non-members are invited to call the Library or check our web page in early October for more information. We hope to see you there!

Museums at Stony Brook to Host Carriage Preservation Symposium

The Museums at Stony Brook (N.Y.) will host a two-day symposium Nov. 7-8 on the care, preservation and conservation of historic horse-drawn vehicles. Attendees will meet with conservators and participate in lectures and demonstrations using the collection of carriages and the storage and exhibition facilities of The Museums. For more information, contact Merri Ferrell, Carriage Collection Curator, at (516) 751-0066, ext. 222.

The NSL Does ALA

The NSL's Peter Winants and Laura Rose joined 13,000 library types who descended on Washington, D.C., in June for the American Library Association's annual convention. The NSL staff is evaluating equipment needed for the new library building. At the meeting's trade fair, your friendly library director and librarian fell in love with an overhead scanner that allows copies to be made from books as they sit face up, thus eliminating the need to smash books face down onto a copier, which often damages their spines. A built-in computer even determines the



New and Improved Harness Racing Museum & Hall of Fame Reopens Its Doors

The Harness Racing Museum & Hall of Fame is once again welcoming visitors after completing an extensive \$6 million renovation. The facility, which is located in Goshen, N.Y., boasts a full line-up of new exhibits, from a timeline about the history of the sport to a cutting-edge "3-D Simulator" that allows visitors to experience the sensations of participating in a harness race.

The renovation increased the museum's exhibit areas from 18,000 to 30,000 square feet. It also features interactive exhibits that allow visitors to try their hand at calling a race or judging a finish; videos of current top races; and other exhibits featuring items from the museum collection, including art, photographs, and objects such as sulkies, harness, helmets and trophies. The museum also houses the Peter D. Haughton Memorial Library, which has more than 7,000 books, newspapers, magazines, videos, sound recordings and films related to the sport of harness racing. The library is open by appointment only.

For more information on the museum or library, call (914) 294-6330, or write to: Harness Racing Museum & Hall of Fame, 240 Main Street, Goshen, N.Y. 10924.

curve of the book's pages so that the resulting images are flat instead of skewed (Ever tried to copy something near the inside margin in a dictionary?). We were impressed!

Publications Receive Honors in American Horse Publications Contest

The winners of the American Horse Publications' annual awards contest were announced at AHP's annual meeting, which was

held in San Diego in June. This year's general excellence winners were: *TBH Marketwatch*, newsletter; *Thoroughbred Times*, tabloid/newspaper; *The Backstretch*, association magazine; *Hoofcare and Lameness*, self-supported magazine (circulation 15,000 and under); *Michael Plumb's Horse Journal*, self-supported magazine (circulation 15,000 and over). Congratulations, winners!

American Work Horse Museum Moves to Lexington, Va.

The American Work Horse Museum, a collection of agricultural and domestic horse-powered machinery, has a new home at the Virginia Horse Center in Lexington, Va. The museum had been located at the Paeonian Springs, Va., home of Dr. Henry Buckardt, who assembled it prior to his death in 1996.

It took a team of 20-odd volunteers three days and 15 tractor-trailer loads to move the collection, which includes horse collars, harnesses, vehicles, rakes, plows, cultivators and more. A permanent exhibit to house and display the collection is now under construction at the Horse Center, and a dedication will be held in late September. For more information, call (540) 463-2194.

Welcome New Friends

as of July 7, 1998

Major General Jonathan R. Burton/Fort Belvoir, Va.
George Chocklett/Lexington, Va.
Mr. and Mrs. Donald Glickman/Upperville, Va.
Mr. and Mrs. Robert A. Heinold/Rochester, N.Y.
Mr. and Mrs. A. Thomas Jackson/College Park, Ga.
Nancy Kelley/Yellow Springs, Ohio
Mr. and Mrs. Douglas D. Kemmerer/Oldwick, N.J.
William A. Lobb/Atlanta, Ga.
Brooks McCormick/Chicago, Ill.
Mr. and Mrs. John L. McShane/Cockeysville, Md.
Mrs. G. W. Merck/Bedminster, N.J.
Robert M. Reel/Lexington, Va.
Francisco Salas/Madrid, Spain
Meredith C. Watters/Des Moines, Iowa

SEEN IN THE STACKS...

Pam Johnson of Pennington, N.J., researched old issues of *The Chronicle of the Horse* magazine for information for the 1998 Essex Horse Trials program book.

Betsey Battistoni of Millbrook, N.Y., looked into the NSL's books on foxhunting.

John Minich of Fresno, Calif., researched books on horse breeds.

Laura Dovesu of Gemmenich, Belgium, and **Sarah Barnett** of Arlington, Va., looked into books on Arabians.

Kelly Jordan of State College, Pa., and **Karin Johnston** of Alexandria, Va., took a tour of the NSL collection.

Laura Balding of St. Charles, Mo., visited the NSL to deliver a donation.

Acheson Harding of Williamsburg, Va., researched early Thoroughbred racetracks.

Luella Campbell of South Africa took a look at the NSL's polo books.

Holli and R. Moses Thompson of Middleburg enjoyed a look at the rare books collection.

Karen Washburn of Great Falls, Va., researched field trial hounds.

Judy Myers of Corvallis, Ore., looked at books on Friesian horses.

Eugene Michaels of Charlottesville, Va., researched the horse business.

Julie and Robbie Hoskins, Celia Evans, Eric McCarthy and **Lindsay Dalbec** visited the NSL while taking a break from showing Welsh ponies. The crew hails from the Gainesville, Fla., area.

Bebe, Schuyler, Breck and Player Haynes, who ride and hunt in Bacova, Va., visited the NSL.

Erin Solaro of Springfield, Va., researched the 1936 Olympic three-day event competition.

George Chocklett of the Virginia Horse Center in Lexington, Va., visited the NSL.

George Geist, a farrier from Spotswood, N.J., looked into books on farriery and veterinary medicine.

Tamara Estes of Rochester, Minn., enjoyed the NSL's collection of books by Henry Alken.

Melinda Neese of Markham, Va., looked into the dressage book collection.

Maryann Casey of Upperville, Va., enjoyed a look at the rare book collection.

Faith Grimm of Orange, Calif., researched the horse in history.

Susan Eddy of Pleasant Valley, N.J., and **Harrison Eddy** of The Plains, Va., visited the NSL.

We're Getting Ready for the 1998 Book Sale. Are you?

The catalog for the 1998 fall book sale will be mailed in late September, and bids will be due Friday, Nov. 6. We encourage you to place your bids early, because in the case of a tie, the early bird gets the book.

The book sale is open to Friends of the Library whose memberships are up to date. If you would like to check your membership status, or have questions about how our "silent auction" works, call the NSL at (540) 687-6542, or see our web page at <http://www.nsl.org/booksa.htm>. If you are not a member but would like to receive a catalog, or if you would like to have one sent to a friend, contact us. A complete list of auction results will be available after the sale.

This year we have over 300 lots to offer, including copies of such fine books as:

Thoughts Upon Hunting by Peter Beckford

Hoofs in the Distance by Lida Fleitmann Bloodgood

The Way to Perfect Horsemanship by Udo Burger

Riding and Schooling Horses by Harry D. Chamberlin

Blister Jones by John Taintor Foote

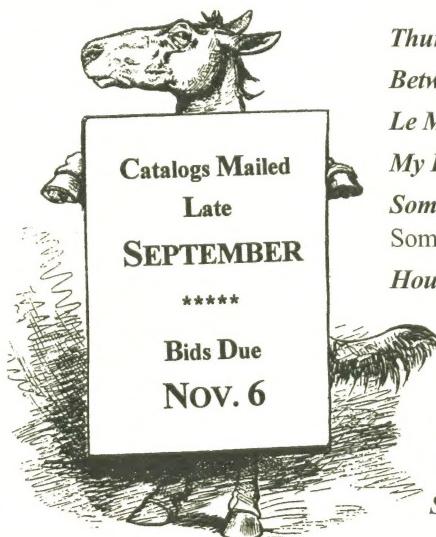
Longshot by Dick Francis

Gleason's Horse Book by Oscar Gleason

Polo by Peter Grace

Royal Newmarket by R.C. Lyle

The Race Horses of America by Alexander Mackay-Smith



Thunderhead by Mary O'Hara

Between the Flags by Harry S. Page

Le Maneige Royal (reprint) by Antoine de Pluvineil

My Horses, My Teachers by Alois Podhajsky

Some Experiences of an Irish R.M. by E. Oe. Somerville and Margaret Ross

Hounds and Hunting Through the Ages by Joseph B. Thomas

The Story of American Foxhunting by J. Blan van Urk

Cherished Portraits of Thoroughbred Horses by Walter S. Vosburgh

Sporting Art by Stella Walker

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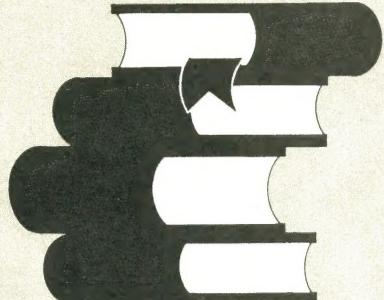
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The NSL's New Windows on the World

Remember the picture we had on the back cover of the last newsletter, showing the first concrete walls of the new library building rising from the ground? If so, you can see from this recent photo just how much our 15,000-square-foot building has progressed this spring. All three floors of the new building are now in place and under roof, and each day our future home becomes even more of a beauty.

What do we see when we put on our hard hats and tour the site of the new facility? On the outside, we see workmen painstakingly setting stone by hand on the library's outer walls, bulldozers reconfiguring the earth around the site, crews creating retaining walls for extensive landscaping. On the inside, we see three floors of wide open spaces that are taking



PETER WINANTS PHOTOS

In April architect Thomas M. Beach Jr. (right) discussed the building construction with members of the NSL's board of directors (from left) John H. Daniels, Turner Reuter and Clarke Ohrstrom.

the shape of the library we envisioned, from the meeting room to the rare book room, from the stacks to the scholars' carrels, from the film library to the exhibition hall.

If you have visited the library's present home, which has one 2' x 3' window, you can imagine how exciting it is for us to walk through the new space, which has window after window after window. We think you'll agree that each offers a more beautiful view than the next.

Each day the building continues its metamorphosis both inside and out. It is scheduled to be completed in the spring of 1999.

With the front of the new building hidden by a construction dumpster, we offer this rear view. The two large spaces in the center of the photo are the doorways leading from the spacious meeting room. We plan to be warming up the fireplace between them in the fall of 1999.



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